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## REIJO NIKKILÄ RECEIVES DOCPOINT'S APOLLO AWARD

Documentarist and journalist Reijo Nikkilä will receive the Apollo lifetime award 2015. The Apollo is awarded to a person or a community for special achievements in the field of Finnish documentary filmmaking.

**Reijo Nikkilä** (born 1939) will receive the Apollo award for his work for Finnish documentarism and for his significant input to the intercultural exchange between Finnish and Russian documentary traditions.

Nikkilä has become known as the Finnish Broadcasting Company YLE's correspondent in Moscow in the 1970s and 80s, and through his several documentary films and books on Russia. He did his most essential work as the producer of YLE's *Itäprojekti* and as a documentary film director. Since the 1990s, Nikkilä has been an important figure in bringing Russian documentary films to Finland and exporting Finnish documentary films to Russia. His work has been acknowledged with the State Award for Public Information in 1993 and 2001.

DocPoint will honour Nikkilä's career by including into its programme a Carte Blanche series, consisting of films Nikkilä has personally chosen. The series, *A Bitter Taste of Freedom* is Nikkilä's view of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the free filmmaking in Russia from **Marina Goldovskaya's** film *The Solovetsk Power* (*Vlast Solovetskaya*, Russia, 1988) to Goldovskaya's *A Bitter Taste of Freedom* (Sweden/USA, 2011). The title of the whole series comes from a film that is a unique portrait of **Anna Politkovskaya**, revealing her assassination in 2006 – an event that was to mark the end of freedom. Nikkilä's own films comment on the Soviet Union and Russian events from Stalin's pogroms to the collapse of the Soviet reign from a western point of view.

– Reijo's series portrays well the developments of the Russian documentary scene starting from the end of 1980s. His films are like comments to this development – he has been a part of every momentous occasion in Russian history since the 1960s as a journalist and a filmmaker, not only reporting the events, but also commenting on them. The Apollo Award will be awarded to him for his work, but the Carte Blanche series will also show how important and relevant his work has been in the past – and is right now, considering the current changes taking place in Russia, says the Artistic Director of DocPoint, **Ulla Simonen**.

*A Bitter Taste of Freedom* series includes the following eleven films:

*Prague 21.8.1968* (Finland, 1998), direction: Reijo Nikkilä

*The Solovetsk Power* (*Vlast Solovetskaya*, Russia, 1988), direction: Marina Goldovskaya

*On the Hands of Stalin* (Finland, 1989), direction: Reijo Nikkilä

*In the Garage of Berija* (Finland, 1991), direction: Reijo Nikkilä

*Lenin's Body* (Russia, 1992), direction: Vitaly Mansky

*The August Revolution* (Finland, 1991), direction: Reijo Nikkilä

*Zhdanov – Stalinin protegè* (Finland, 1991), direction: Reijo Nikkilä

*The Russians Have Gone* (*Russkie ushli*, Russia, 1991), direction: Alexander Gutman  
*The Belovs* (*Belovy*, Russia, 1992), direction: Viktor Kossakovsky  
*DMB-91* (Russia, 1991), direction: Alexei Khanyutin  
*A Bitter Taste of Freedom* (Sweden/USA, 2011), direction: Marina Goldovskaya

Reijo Nikkilä will receive the Apollo lifework award on Wednesday Jan 28<sup>th</sup> at 5pm at the Andorra film theatre. Nikkilä's film *Prague 21.8.1968* (Finland, 1998, 25 min) will be screened at the awarding event, after which he will introduce the content and themes of the ensuing series. The director of *The Solovetsk Power* and *A Bitter Taste of Freedom*, Marina Goldovskaja will also be attending the event. The screening and the award event will be open to the public free of charge.

14<sup>th</sup> DocPoint – Helsinki Documentary Film Festival will run from 27<sup>th</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> February.

**More information and interview requests:**

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